

There's a Light Shining; Psalm 118:26-29

- I. Light Shining
 - a. "There's a light along the pathway, its guiding me home"
 - b. Light versus Dark
 - i. Light path
 - ii. Dark path
 - iii. When we are driving home from Lubbock at night, there are parts of I-27 that are lit and parts that are not
 - iv. You must rely on your headlights to light up the dark path
 - c. What are you using for your headlights?
- II. Guiding Me Home
 - a. We use travel and map apps on our phones constantly
 - i. Even if we know our route, we use them for estimated times of arrival
 - ii. I was in Dallas a couple weeks ago (I don't know the highway system at all) and made it to my destination without any problem
 - iii. Without some kind of navigation system (paper maps included) we would wander aimlessly hoping to reach our destination
 - iv. We need a guide
 - b. What are we using as our guide?
 - i. A lot of us use our own understanding and experiences to guide us
 1. We want vengeance when we have been wronged
 2. We want justice when someone trespasses against us
 3. We look out for number 1 (ourselves)
 4. We rely on our own wisdom and strength to get through hard times
 - ii. David looks back at his past conflicts (he had them with Saul and with Absalom)
 - iii. Psalm 31:3–4 (ESV) ³ For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me; ⁴ you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.
 - iv. David does not rely on his own wisdom, but relies on God and His wisdom, justice, and vengeance
 - v. Proverbs 14:12 (ESV) ¹² There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
 - vi. David had many opportunities to enact his vengeance on Saul, but chose to let the Lord do it (remember, David had already been anointed by Samuel as King of Israel in 1 Samuel 16)
 - vii. Psalm 3:title–8 (ESV) A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN HE FLED FROM ABSALOM HIS SON. ¹ O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; ² many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." *Selah* ³ But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. ⁴ I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. *Selah* ⁵ I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. ⁶ I will not be

afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. ⁷ Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. ⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! *Selah*

- viii. Jesus is the Light shining, and He is shining on the Gospel message that the Holy Spirit has written down for us
- ix. Listen to a few verses of this Psalm of Asaph
- x. Psalm 73:23–26 (ESV) ²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- xi. Our guide is the Gospel (both Old and New Testaments)
- c. The light along the pathway says trust God to keep His promises
- d. “There’s a light along the pathway, its guiding me home. Leading to that eternal day. And it beckons me on when the pathway seems dark, there’s a light that is shining for me”

III. Calvary

- a. “When the way seems so heavy, the burdens to bear, there’s a light that is shining for me. Then I think of my savior on Calvary there, there’s a light that is shining for me”
- b. The storm rages for each of us
 - i. Health issues
 - ii. Death (or the fear of death)
 - iii. Economic woes
 - iv. We are consumed with worry and anxiety
- c. We read of many things happening to Paul on his journeys
 - i. 2 Corinthians 1:8 (ESV) ⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.
 - ii. He was set against by the Jews in Antioch of Psidia and fled to Lystra
 - iii. He was stoned and left for dead in Lystra (went back to Lystra then the next day went to Derbe) (Acts 14)
 - iv. The riot caused by Demetrius in Acts 19
 - v. “Fighting wild beasts” in 1 Corinthians 15
 - vi. There is a list in 2 Corinthians 11:22-27 of all the things Paul suffered
 - vii. 2 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

- viii. Paul does not seem to be referring to a judicial decree, but to a personal sense of his impending death. This forced him and his companions to throw themselves totally on God's help, compassion, and power. ¹
- d. The light shines on Calvary
 - i. "It is finished"
 1. Everything that Jesus started before the creation of the world was accomplished
 2. He was the atoning sacrifice that fulfilled all the prophecies
 3. He fulfilled the Mosaic Law
 4. He broke down the dividing wall of hostility (salvation is for everyone)
 5. His body bore the sins of the world
 6. His blood washed away our sins (and continues to wash us)
 7. He opened the door for the Church
 - ii. When we look at Calvary (because that is where the light is shining) we see the culmination of Jesus's work
- IV. There's a Light Shining
 - a. The light guides us home (to a relationship with God through Jesus)
 - b. The light shows us how to get through this life with all its hurts and troubles
 - c. The light shows us Jesus' sacrifice and His atoning blood
 - d. "There's a light guiding me through the darkness of midnight"
 - e. "He's guiding me home, there the harbor I see. Till I'm safe in the fold, there's a light guiding me"

¹ Robert James Utley, [*Paul's Letters to a Troubled Church: I and II Corinthians*](#), vol. Volume 6, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International, 2002), 205.